



HR0488

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Glen Ellyn Public Library is 100 years old  
3 this year; it was established in 1907 to provide an invaluable  
4 resource to the then small community of Glen Ellyn; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1881, when Glen Ellyn was called Prospect Park,  
6 the Library Association of Prospect Park was organized and  
7 twenty people paid five dollars each to purchase 100 books from  
8 a Harper Brother's salesman; 100 books were placed in a  
9 bookcase and stored in the Congregational Church basement; in  
10 1907, a group of ten women met to begin the Glen Ellyn Library  
11 Association, and to raise money they held teas and charged a  
12 ten-cent admission fee; the ladies of the Glen Ellyn Library  
13 Association met with Bessie Baldwin, the Wheaton Library's  
14 librarian, who instructed the committee on the preparation of  
15 books for circulation; and

16           WHEREAS, In May 1907, the library opened to the subscribers  
17 and fifty-six membership cards were issued; its collection  
18 included those original 100 books plus 40 new books purchased  
19 with the proceeds of on-going afternoon teas and donated  
20 volumes; on July 23, 1907 the Glen Ellyn Library Association  
21 was legally registered with the Secretary of State; and

22           WHEREAS, The Glen Ellyn Library grew from a small room in

1 the Village Hall to the room above Boyd's Hardware store and,  
2 in 1911, the library purchased the Nickerson house on  
3 Pennsylvania Avenue; contact was made with Andrew Carnegie  
4 about the construction of a library in Glen Ellyn; Mr.  
5 Carnegie's grant of \$10,000 came with two conditions: the  
6 building site must be provided free and clear and the village  
7 must assume the maintenance of the facility; the Library  
8 Association secured the land at the corner of Park and Crescent  
9 from the William Grimshaw family, George Awsumb was chosen as  
10 architect, and construction was started on the new building;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, On September 14, 1914, the Glen Ellyn Free Public  
13 Library, which could accommodate 5,000 books, opened to the  
14 public; in April 1961, a second addition was added to the front  
15 of the original Carnegie building, bringing the total shelf  
16 capacity to 50,000 volumes; in 1980 a third addition was added;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, On December 16, 1995, a new library facility  
19 opened to the public at its new location at the corner of Duane  
20 and Prospect; the floor space is 52,000 square feet, which is  
21 double the size of the old building; it has 210,000 items  
22 housed in its collection; this came to be because of an idea  
23 from ten women who retrieved 100 books from basement storage in  
24 1907; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           congratulate the staff and patrons of the Glen Ellyn Public  
4           Library on the 100th anniversary of the institution; and be it  
5           further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7           presented to the staff of the Glen Ellyn Public Library as a  
8           symbol of our respect.